

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A harness assembly adapted for attachment to an animal, the harness assembly comprising:
  - a tail strap disposed so as to pass above and adjoin the tail of the animal;
  - a leg strap disposed so as to pass below and adjacent to the anus of the animal from a left side to a right side along the animal's posterior;
  - a pair of back straps disposed so as to pass over the back of the animal, said pair of back straps being joined to said tail strap and said leg strap to support said tail strap and said leg strap adjacent the anal region of the animal; and
  - a chest strap joined to said pair of back straps and disposed so as to encircle a chest region of the animal.
2. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 1, further comprising:
  - a plurality of fastening devices, each of said plurality of fastening devices being joined to at least one of said tail, leg and back straps so as to be adjacent the anal region of the animal.
3. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 2, wherein each of said plurality of fastening devices comprises an independently attachable and releasable fastener assembly for positive connection to any selected point along a continuous open edge of a bag.

4. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 3, wherein at least one of said plurality of fastening devices is positioned adjacent each intersection of said tail strap and one of said back straps.

5. (Currently Amended) A harness assembly adapted for attachment to an animal, the harness assembly comprising:

a tail strap disposed so as to pass above the tail of the animal;

a leg strap disposed so as to pass below the anus of the animal;

a pair of back straps disposed so as to pass over the back of the animal, said pair of back straps being joined to said tail strap and said leg strap to support said tail strap and said leg strap adjacent the anal region of the animal; and

a chest strap joined to said pair of back straps and disposed so as to encircle a chest region of the animal;

wherein each of said plurality of fastening devices comprises an independently attachable and releasable fastener assembly for positive connection to any selected point along a continuous open edge of a bag; and

~~The harness assembly of claim 3,~~ wherein at least one of said plurality of fastening devices is positioned adjacent each intersection of said leg strap and one of said back straps.

6. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 5, wherein an additional one of said plurality of fastening devices is positioned adjacent each intersection of said tail strap and one of said back straps.

7. (Currently Amended) A harness assembly adapted for attachment to an animal, the harness assembly comprising:

a tail strap disposed so as to pass above the tail of the animal;

a leg strap disposed so as to pass below the anus of the animal;

a pair of back straps disposed so as to pass over the back of the animal, said pair of back straps being joined to said tail strap and said leg strap to support said tail strap and said leg strap adjacent the anal region of the animal;

a chest strap joined to said pair of back straps and disposed so as to encircle a chest region of the animal;

~~The harness assembly of claim 1, further comprising:~~

~~a collar strap joined to said chest strap intermediate intersections of said chest strap with said back straps; and~~

~~an adjustable fastener for selectively securing said collar strap around a collar worn by the animal.~~

8. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 1, wherein said back straps are joined to said chest strap adjacent a shoulder region of the animal.

9. (Currently Amended) A harness assembly adapted for attachment to an animal, the harness assembly comprising:

a tail strap disposed so as to pass above the tail of the animal;

a leg strap disposed so as to pass below the anus of the animal;

a pair of back straps disposed so as to pass over the back of the animal, said pair of back straps being joined to said tail strap and said leg strap to support said tail strap and said leg strap adjacent the anal region of the animal; and

a chest strap joined to said pair of back straps and disposed so as to encircle  
a chest region of the animal;

~~The harness assembly of claim 1,~~ wherein each of said back straps  
comprises at least two distinct strips secured to one another by an adjustable  
fastener.

10. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 9, wherein each of said  
adjustable fasteners comprises a friction buckle.

11. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 1, further comprising:  
a pair of leg loops, each of said pair of leg loops being joined to said leg strap  
and being disposed to encircle an upper thigh portion of a hind leg of the animal.

12. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 11, wherein each of said  
pair of leg loops comprises at least two distinct strips secured to one another by an  
adjustable fastener.

13. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 12, wherein each of said  
adjustable fasteners comprises a friction buckle.

14. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 11, wherein each of said leg  
loops is at least partially formed by a distinct, continuous strip that forms at least part  
of a respective back strap.

15. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 11, further comprising a pair of leg braces, each of said pair of leg braces joining a respective one of said back straps to a respective one of said leg loops.

16. (Original) A harness assembly adapted for attachment to an animal, the harness assembly comprising:

a tail strap disposed so as to pass above the tail of the animal;

a leg strap disposed so as to pass below the anus of the animal;

a pair of back straps disposed so as to pass over the back of the animal, said pair of back straps being joined to said tail strap and said leg strap to support said tail strap and said leg strap adjacent the anal region of the animal;

a chest strap joined to said pair of back straps and disposed so as to encircle a chest region of the animal;

a pair of leg loops, each of said pair of leg loops being joined to said leg strap and being disposed to encircle an upper thigh portion of a hind leg of the animal;

a pair of leg braces, each of said pair of leg braces joining a respective one of said back straps to a respective one of said leg loops; and

a plurality of fastening devices, each fastening device being joined to at least one of said tail, leg and back straps adjacent the anal region of the animal, each fastening device being adapted for positive connection to any selected point along a continuous open edge of a collection bag, the fastener devices being peripherally spaced around the anal region of the animal to cause an attached collection bag to encircle the anal region of the animal.

17. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 16, wherein each of said leg loops is at least partially formed by a discrete, continuous strip that forms at least part of a respective back strap.

18. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 16, wherein each of said pair of leg loops comprises at least two distinct strips secured to one another by an adjustable fastener.

19. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 18, wherein each of said back straps comprises at least two distinct strips secured to one another by an adjustable fastener.

20. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 19, wherein each of said adjustable fasteners comprises a friction buckle.

21. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 19, further comprising:  
a collar strap joined to said chest strap intermediate intersections of said chest strap with said back straps, said collar strap being selectively securable around a collar worn by the animal.

22. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 16, further comprising a plurality of releasable fastener devices, each of said plurality of releasable fastener devices being mounted to at least one of said straps of the harness assembly, the harness assembly further comprising an article of clothing, the article of clothing having complementary releasable fastener device positioned for mating with the

releasable fastener devices of the harness assembly for releasable mounting of the article of clothing to the harness assembly.

23. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 22, wherein the releasable fastener devices are mounted to said back straps adjacent said chest strap.

24. (Original) A harness assembly adapted for attachment to an animal, the harness assembly comprising:

a tail strap disposed so as to pass above the tail of the animal;

a leg strap disposed so as to pass below the anus of the animal;

a pair of back straps disposed so as to pass over the back of the animal and connecting the tail strap and leg strap adjacent the anal region of the animal;

a chest strap joined to said pair of back straps and disposed so as to encircle a chest region of the animal, said pair of back straps overlapping one another intermediate said tail strap and said chest strap;

a pair of leg loops, each of said pair of leg loops being joined to said leg strap and being disposed to encircle an upper thigh portion of a hind leg of the animal;

a pair of leg braces, each of said pair of leg braces joining a respective one of said back straps to a respective one of said leg loops; and

a plurality of fastening devices, each fastening device being joined to at least one of said tail, leg and back straps adjacent the anal region of the animal, each fastening device being adapted for positive connection to any selected point along a continuous open edge of a collection bag, the fastener devices being peripherally spaced around the anal region of the animal to cause an attached collection bag to encircle the anal region of the animal.

25. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 24, wherein each of said leg loops is at least partially formed by a distinct, continuous strip that forms at least part of a respective back strap.

26. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 24, wherein said plurality of fastening devices are joined to said back straps intermediate said tail strap and said leg strap.

27. (Original) The harness assembly of claim 24, further comprising a plurality of releasable fasteners, each of said plurality of releasable fasteners being mounted to at least one of said collar and back straps of the harness assembly, the harness assembly further comprising an article of clothing, the article of clothing having a complementary releasable fastener positioned for mating with the releasable fastener of the harness assembly for releasable mounting of the article of clothing to the harness assembly.

28. (Original) A device for collecting animal wastes comprising:  
the harness assembly of claim 24; and  
an imperforate bag of thin plastic material, said bag being secured to said harness assembly by said plurality of fastening devices.